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SAPC-6182 ✓

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Contracting Officer

11 May 1956

SUBJECT : Rectification Equipment

REFERENCES : A. SAPC-6183 - Memo for Project Director, from
A. C. Lundahl, dated 23 April 1956
B. SAPC-6063 - Memo for Project Director, from
Director of Operations, dated 9 May 1956

1. This will confirm my discussion with you on the financing of rectification equipment for the exploitation of HTAUTOMAT material as requested in Reference A. I have asked you to advise [REDACTED] that we will provide funds for the purchase from [REDACTED] of a two stage rectifier for focal lengths up to 48 inches at a cost to us (including G&A and profit) of under [REDACTED]. I have asked you to obtain from Mr. Lundahl a written justification of this financing. The justification should be cast in such a form as to make clear that the technical judgment for the need of this equipment is the effective exploitation of HTAUTOMAT material and is a judgment being made by Mr. Lundahl and his staff. The memorandum should record the fact that our budget includes provision for rectification, that accordingly no such provision was included in Mr. Lundahl's budget and that it is for this reason that he is requesting us to fund the purchase.

2. I am much more skeptical as to the need for a 70mm rectifier since it would appear to me that the main use that will be made of our 70mm photography for intelligence purposes (as distinct from prompt plotting of missions) is to facilitate a quick and very preliminary examination of the terrain covered in the course of a mission for the purpose of detecting any relatively large, readily visible, targets. Such examination will be of use both in operational planning and in directing the photo-interpreter's attention to particular frames of larger scale photography. This major use seems to me possible without rectification. Indeed, it does not appear to me that the rectification of all 70mm take in advance of such a pioneer study would be feasible. Accordingly, unless Mr. Lundahl makes a strong case, I would be disposed at least to postpone the purchase of a 70mm rectifier.

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3. I am inclined to feel even more strongly about the rectifier for focal length up to 240 inches. We are not going to have our long focal length camera in operation until autumn at the earliest. It will for some months be an untested item. Even when its development is satisfactorily completed, we will have to have some experience with the equipment and with the product before we know what volume of 180 inch photography it will be useful for us to obtain. If the volume is small, I have the impression that the more primitive and laborious method of reconstituting photography without rectification might be adequate. Moreover, I note that this rectifier could not be installed for fourteen months by which time the active phase of AQUATONE will probably be approaching its end. In other words the rectifier would be useful only for the analysis well after the fact of accumulated photography. Under the circumstances I believe a final decision should await experience with the C Configuration camera.

4. Would you convey these views to Mr. Lundahl and advise me if he strongly resists the conclusions in the last two paragraphs.

SIGNED

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Project Director

RMB:djm

- 1-Addressee w/cy Refs.
- 2-Deputy Project Dir.
- 3-Pro. Dir. Chrono
- 4-Pro. Dir. FU
- 5-Project Chrono
- 6-Dir of Admin - Finance

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